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APRIL 1973

FEED Situation

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1.--Statistical summary of prices, indexes and price ratios, recent years and months

Item	Unit	Season average		1972	1972/73			
		1970/71	1971/72	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
FEED GRAIN AND HAY PRICES								
Corn, No. 3 Yellow, Chicago	Dol. per bu.	1.44	1.18	1.23	1.53	1.55	1.57	1.57
Price received by farmers	do.	1.33	1.08	1.10	1.42	1.39	1.35	1.37
Oats, No. 1 White, Chicago	do.	.729	.712	*	*	*	*	*
No. 2 White, Minneapolis	do.	.709	.675	.689	.918	.910	.872	.871
Price received by farmers	do.	.626	.606	.638	.806	.811	.776	.771
Barley (All), No. 3, Minneapolis	do.	1.21	1.16	1.16	1.42	1.56	1.53	1.59
Price received by farmers	do.	.959	.992	.983	1.32	1.42	1.34	1.31
Grain sorghum, No. 2 Yellow, Kansas City	Dol. per cwt.	2.42	2.06	2.06	3.15	3.30	3.32	3.29
Price received by farmers	do.	2.04	1.89	1.87	2.72	2.72	2.60	2.60
All hay, baled, price received by farmers	Dol. per ton	26.00	28.00	29.00	33.00	34.60	35.40	35.40
Alfalfa hay, baled, price received by farmers	do.	24.70	27.10	30.50	34.30	36.20	36.90	37.00
PROCESSED FEED PRICES, BULK								
Soybean meal, 44%, solvent, Decatur	Dol. per ton	78.50	90.20	90.90	174.00	188.40	218.75	199.90
49-50% solvent, Decatur	do.	84.30	98.20	98.60	195.00	210.40	240.00	224.90
Cottonseed meal, 41% expeller, Memphis	do.	73.40	76.30	75.60	164.40	160.30	168.75	134.75
Linseed meal, 34% solvent, Minneapolis	do.	62.60	72.50	70.50	130.00	141.80	159.75	157.10
Peanut meal, 50%, S.E. mills	do.	77.70	83.70	91.80	*	*	*	*
Tankage digester, 60%, Chicago	do.	99.60	112.50	114.70	195.60	231.50	313.75	276.25
Meat meal, 50%, Chicago	do.	95.60	111.25	116.90	185.00	219.50	298.75	252.50
Fish meal, 65%, imported East Coast	do.	173.20	172.70	164.00	266.25	370.00	418.75	420.00
Gluten feed, 21%, Chicago	do.	49.50	47.10	48.50	68.50	79.80	79.25	77.25
Brewers' dried grains, 24%, Milwaukee	do.	51.50	51.10	49.50	85.00	95.00	93.25	76.50
Distillers' dried grains, 28%, Cincinnati	do.	64.40	61.30	58.00	77.50	87.30	98.75	103.60
Wheat bran, Minneapolis	do.	43.80	40.30	44.25	72.10	74.60	60.50	65.10
Buffalo	do.	50.00	48.20	50.75	78.60	73.70	61.10	68.10
Wheat middlings, Minneapolis	do.	43.90	40.40	44.10	71.20	73.60	59.75	64.90
Buffalo	do.	51.60	49.20	51.00	79.10	73.80	61.75	69.40
Hominy feed, Chicago	do.	45.70	39.20	38.75	54.50	54.50	47.90	47.90
Molasses blackstrap, New York	do.	27.67	28.48	28.60	35.30	47.60	52.90	55.80
Beet pulp (molasses), Los Angeles	do.	54.90	56.40	55.60	66.60	73.80	73.80	73.80
Alfalfa meal, 17%, dehydrated, Kansas City	do.	48.10	48.40	49.70	75.70	92.80	106.70	94.80
Tallow, inedible prime, Chicago	Cents per lb.	7.6	6.4	5.8	7.0	7.2	8.6	9.9
Urea, 42%, N. Ft. Worth (bagged)	Dol. per ton	70.00	68.70	69.50	69.00	67.00	85.00	*
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS								
Soybean meal, 44%	Dol. per cwt.	5.69	6.09	5.94	8.95	10.40	11.50	12.60
Cottonseed meal, 41%	do.	5.54	5.66	5.63	7.71	9.00	9.52	10.00
Wheat bran	do.	4.01	3.97	4.00	4.95	5.35	5.33	5.39
Wheat middlings	do.	4.09	4.01	4.06	5.02	5.43	5.32	5.37
Broiler grower feed	Dol. per ton	99.00	96.00	95.00	112.00	120.00	128.00	133.00
Laying feed	do.	88.00	85.00	84.00	102.00	111.00	117.00	122.00
Dairy feed, 16%	do.	79.00	78.00	78.00	93.00	100.00	100.00	101.00
Beef cattle feed, 30% and over	Dol. per cwt.	4.99	5.01	5.00	5.90	6.36	6.51	6.91
Hog feed, over 29%	do.	6.77	7.09	7.05	9.08	10.20	11.50	12.40
Alfalfa hay, baled	Dol. per ton	36.00	39.00	41.10	43.50	45.80	46.90	48.70
PRICE INDEXES (1967=100)								
Feed grains, prices received by farmers	Pct.	110	95	95	124	124	120	120
Eleven high-protein feeds, at principal markets	do.	105	117	116	206	231	270	250
Five oilseed meals	do.	103	116	116	218	237	271	249
Tankage meat meal, and fish meal	do.	116	125	124	193	241	313	287
Gluten feed, brewers' dried grains and distillers' dried grains	do.	107	104	103	142	165	177	177
Feed, prices paid by farmers	do.	107	104	104	126	135	140	144
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY/FEED PRICE RATIOS 1/	Average (March)							
Hog-corn, Omaha 2/	1967-71=16.2	12.7	19.8	19.0	20.5	21.5	23.3	25.4
Hog-corn, U.S.	1967-71=16.9	12.8	21.5	21.2	20.8	22.3	25.3	28.0
Beef steer-corn, Omaha 3/	1967-71=22.3	22.2	28.5	28.2	24.6	26.8	27.6	30.2
Milk-feed, U.S.	1967-71= 1.65	1.69	1.79	1.80	1.62	1.55	1.54	1.51
Egg-feed, U.S.	1967-71= 8.6	7.4	7.1	7.6	8.5	8.9	7.3	7.7
Broiler-feed, U.S.	1967-71= 3.1	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.5	2.9	3.0	3.5
Turkey-feed, U.S.	1967-71= 4.6	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.0	3.7	4.1

1/ Units of corn or other concentrate ration equal in value to 100 pounds of hog or beef steer, one pound of chicken, milk, or one dozen eggs. 2/ Based on packer and shipper purchase's of hogs and No. 2 yellow corn. 3/ Based on price of beef steers all grades sold out of first hands for slaughter, and No. 2 yellow corn. * Not reported.

Prices compiled from Chicago Board of Trade, Minneapolis Daily Market Record, Kansas City Grain Market Review, National Provisioner, Feedstuffs, and reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

In This Issue

Feed Situation News Brief 4
1973/74 Outlook and Recent Developments for 1972/73 . . . .
Feed grains (total) 5
Corn 5
Grain Sorghum 9
Oats 10
Barley 11
Other Feeds 12
Hay 13

Index of Tables 20

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SUMMARY

Although farmers usually do not deviate much from their March 1 plans for planting feed grains, they may register a significant increase in actual plantings this year. USDA changed the feed grain program on March 26. This will free about 13½ million acres for production of grains and other crops. About 2½ to 3½ million of this acreage may be planted to corn, with a smaller increase in other feed grains. With normal yields, this would produce about 10 million more tons of feed grains than indicated on March 1.

The March 1 prospective plantings report indicated 122 million acres to be planted to feed grains this year. This was about the same as indicated on January 1. Production from this area would have been approximately 209 million tons, 5 percent more than in 1972, but less than the anticipated needs for the 1973/74 marketing season.

Sharply expanding beef cattle and hog inventories will boost grain consuming animal units in 1973/74 by around 4 percent, adding to domestic feed requirements. And exports may increase from the 33 million tons forecast for 1972/73. With carryin at a relatively low level, the tight supply situation would have continued for 1973/74 and stocks would have fallen further. The aim of the program change is to increase production to help meet demand.

The program change lowers the 25 percent set-aside to 10 percent for farmers enrolled in that option. Farmers enrolled in the zero set-aside option will not be able to shift to the 10 percent option. Payments for participation under both options remain unchanged from those announced at enrollment time.

The March prospective plantings report indicated corn acreage at 71.6 million acres, 7 percent above 1972. That could have given a crop of about 5.8 billion bushels, 4 percent above 1972. Intended sorghum acreage of 18.6 million acres would be up 6 percent from 1972 and would have produced a crop of 831 million bushels, little changed from 1972 and 5 percent below 1971.

Feed buyers are paying the highest prices ever for ingredients this year, although wholesale prices have dropped since early March. Some low-quality feed grains are available at sharply discounted prices. Most of the higher costs are those of protein feeds which are in tight supply throughout the world. However, with prospective soybean plantings of 54 million acres, 7 million more than in 1972, feed buyers can look for lower feed costs this fall, barring an abnormal growing season.

Meanwhile, for the near-term, protein feed supplies continue tight and prices remain high. Although soybean meal prices at Decatur have dropped some

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from the record $235-per-ton mark established on March 7, they are still much higher than the $91 level of last year. Prices will remain sensitive to weather and international developments.

The latest estimate of the 1972 corn crop was 5,553 million bushels, 79 million more than the previous estimate, and only 2 percent under the record set in 1971. The growing season was especially favorable. Despite the notoriously wet fall, the record average yield of 96.9 bushels was 8.8 bushels more than the previous high in 1971. Domestic consumption during 1972/73 is now forecast at 4.8 billion bushels, around 425 million more than in 1971/72 and 100 million above the estimate in February. This revision reflects additional disappearance for October-December 1972 (stemming from the increased crop estimate) plus anticipated use of more corn in lieu of high-protein feeds. Also, the increase in use reflects the need to feed more corn of low quality. There have been reports of substantial quality problems with late-harvested corn. The export forecast remains at a billion bushels. These estimates suggest a carryover of about 875 million bushels this October 1, sharply below a year earlier.

Market prices of corn have been fairly stable since December, ranging mostly between $1.50 and $1.60 a bushel at Chicago. Prices during the next few weeks could ease downward but stay above year-earlier levels because of continued strong export demand. A sizable volume of grain will be moving into the market as all loans expire and CCC sells its grain. Sorghum, oat, and barley prices already have receded from winter highs and are moving toward a more normal relationship to corn prices.

Feed News Briefs

Argentine Corn Estimate

Argentina estimates its coming corn harvest at 9.6 million metric tons, up from 5.9 million a year ago, but down from 9.9 million in 1971. The new crop provides an export availability of 5.6 million tons—up from the 1972 level of 2.3 million.

Unsaturated Fat in Beef

Scientists have known for several years that the amount of saturated fat in the carcasses of sheep and cattle is somewhat lessened when the animals had been fed high-concentrate rations consisting of large amounts of grain.

In a recent study, cattle fed all-concentrates rations had the highest levels of unsaturated fats in their carcasses. However, steers of both the FC Group (fed forage first and concentrate last) and the CF Group had carcasses similar in unsaturated fats to those of steers fed the all-concentrate ration. The levels of unsaturated fats in cattle fed the all-forage ration were significantly lower than those in Groups C, CF, and FC.

Hedging Potential

Hedging in commodity futures offers typical agricultural producers and marketers opportunities to shift one-third to two-thirds of their price risks on grain storage and livestock feeding operations. In most situations, risk is minimized by holding 0.6 to 1.0 unit of short futures for each unit of cash commodity intended for sale. Price risks can be shifted through hedging almost as effectively in livestock feeding as in grain storage. As a rule, hedging effectiveness tends to decline as distance from the par delivery point for the futures contract increases.

Locational differences in hedging potential are most evident for grains. During 1960-70, minimum-risk hedging levels and risk-shifting effectiveness were clearly lower in the more remote locations. In cattle feeding, risk-shifting effectiveness tends to decline as distance from the delivery point increases.

Long-Run Feed Needs

Demand for feed concentrates will continue to rise in the years ahead. Continued population growth and rising per capita income will have a double barrelled impact on consumer demand for meat and other livestock products. Grain producers and protein processors enjoy the unique position of supplying the feed material needed to produce meat-livestock products in the United States.

U.S. feed concentrate requirements are projected to reach 260 million tons by 1985. This would be around 75 million more than the average tonnage for the 1970 and 1971 seasons. Corn feeding, projected at 5½ billion bushels in 1985, will make up the bulk of the increase.

Yields of feed grains will continue the steady rise of past years. National corn yields are projected to reach 130 bushels by 1985. Yields of 125-150 bushels are common on many farms in the Midwest today.

As yields—particularly corn—continue their rise, slightly less acreage may be required by 1985. Acreage of corn harvested for grain in 1985 is projected at 55 million acres, almost 3 million below the average acreage for 1970 and 1971, or close to the low level in 1969.

From USDA

FEED SITUATION

1973/74 OUTLOOK AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS FOR 1972/73

FEED GRAINS (total)

March 1 Planned Acreage Not Enough—Program Changed

Combined acreage of feed grains indicated for this year would total 122 million acres, 6% more than in 1972 if farmers carried through their March 1 plans. A normal growing season on this acreage would give a crop of about 209 million tons, 5% more than in 1972 and only 1% larger than the record 1971 crop.

Production at this indicated level would have been well below projected requirements for 1973/74. Grain consuming animal units (GCAU's) in 1973/74 are projected to increase about 4% over the 119 million forecast this feeding season. Most of the increase will be in beef cattle and hogs, a reflection of herd expansions in response to higher prices. Feed-price ratios were exceptionally favorable in 1971/72. Although feed prices have increased sharply, prices of livestock and poultry have advanced nearly as fast, and the outlook for the ratios still remains generally favorable for the remainder of this year. Beef, hog, and milk prices are record high. Broiler and egg prices are also higher than year-earlier levels.

Grain feeding per GCAU in 1973/74 is likely to slip from this year's high level which is being inflated by the lower feeding value of the 1972 crop, some shift from high-cost protein feeds to grains, and less full foraging because of wet conditions.

Nevertheless, the increase in GCAU's, even with the probability of some slippage in the feeding rate from this year's exceptionally high rate, could require around 3-5 million tons more of feed grains to be fed in 1973/74. If exports expand as expected for 1973/74, total needs would surpass what the March 1 prospective plantings would produce. This would imply a tight supply situation for feed grains in 1973/74.

As a result, the Department on March 26 again altered the 1973 feed grain program to encourage additional acreage. The 25% set-aside option of the program has been lowered to 10%. Thus, corn, sorghum, and barley growers who signed to participate in the 25% plan will automatically have their required set-aside reduced to 10%. Payments on production from half the base of 32¢ per bushel for corn, 30¢ per bushel for sorghum, and 26¢ per bushel for barley remain unchanged. The program change frees up an additional 13½ million acres for production of grain, and other crops and forage. Producers who selected the zero set-aside option will not be able to shift to the 10% option. With this change, about 5 million extra acres might be planted. Normal yields would produce 10 million tons of feed grains above the output implied by the intentions report. This extra production would ease the supply-demand situation.

23 Million Acres Enrolled Under 25% Set-Aside Option

During the February 5-March 16 signup period farmers enrolled to set-aside 22.8 million acres of feed grains, about 14 million less than in 1972, but more than the 16½ million target. However USDA has lowered the 25% set-aside to 10% which will free additional acreage for the production of grain, other crops, and forage.

Out of the 2 set-aside options offered, the 25% set-aside option attracted the most participants. Of the 1.9 million farms enrolled in the program 1.5 million or 81% chose the 25% option. Base acreage enrolled under this plan totaled 91.3 million acres, 22.8 million was signed into set-aside. With the required set-aside now reduced to 10%, the set-aside estimate is reduced about 9 million acres for total feed grains.

CORN

1973 Acreage Intentions Below Goal

According to their March 1 plans, farmers would plant around 71½ million acres to corn in 1973, below USDA's goal of 74 million. This would be 4.8 million acres or 7% more than in 1972 and virtually the same as indicated in the January 1 survey.

Following the January 1 survey, the Department altered the wheat and feed grain programs to stimulate additional plantings. In March, there was little change in indicated corn plantings, but soybean planting intentions soared from 49 million on January 1 to USDA's target of 54 million acres.

Corn planted acreage

Region and State	1972	1973		
		Prospective plantings		Mar. 1 as % of 1972[1]
		Jan. 1	Mar. 1	
	Million acres	*Million acres*	*Million acres*	%
Ohio	3.3	3.6	3.7	110
Ind.	5.1	5.6	5.4	108
Ill.	9.4	10.2	9.9	105
Mich.	2.1	2.2	2.2	105
Wis.	3.1	3.2	3.2	103
E.N. Cent.	23.0	24.8	24.4	106
Minn.	5.7	6.0	6.0	107
Iowa	11.1	11.9	11.8	106
Mo.	2.7	3.1	3.0	110
N. Dak.	.5	.5	.5	106
S. Dak.	3.2	3.6	3.7	113
Nebr.	5.7	6.0	6.2	109
Kans.	1.6	1.8	1.8	115
W.N. Cent.	30.5	32.9	33.0	108
S. Cent.	3.5	3.6	3.8	109
Other States	9.8	[2] 10.2	10.4	106
Total U.S.	66.8	[2] 71.5	71.6	107

[1] Computed from unrounded data. [2] Adjusted upward for States not included in survey.

With a normal growing and harvesting season, and March 1 planned acreage, corn production in 1973 would total around 5.8 billion bushels, or 4% above 1972 output. But with expanding livestock numbers, plus anticipation of continued strong foreign demand, a crop of this size would fall short of requirements, and further reduce carryover stocks from the 875 million bushels forecast for October 1, 1973. However the reduced set-aside requirement may add 2½ to 3½ million acres more to the prospective acreage. This increase would bring supplies more in line with expected demand and prevent another drop in carryover.

Final 1972 Crop Estimate Is 5.6 Billion

The final estimate of the 1972 corn crop was 5,553 million bushels, 79 million more than estimated in January and only 2% under the record high set in 1971. The growing season was especially favorable and despite the exceptionally wet fall, record yields of 96.9 bushels were 8.8 more than the previous high mark in 1971.

The 79 million bushel increase suggests greater stocks than indicated by January 1 stocks data and more domestic feed disappearance in October-December than the 1,625 million bushels reported in the February "Feed Situation."

Domestic consumption of corn during 1972/73 is now forecast at 4.8 billion bushels, around 425 million more than in 1971/72 and 100 million more than our estimate made in February. The estimate for the year was raised because of additional disappearance in the first quarter plus anticipated increased substitution of corn for high-priced protein feeds in livestock rations.

Even with this increase in consumption, the carryover next October would total around 875 million bushels, or close to our estimate in February. Exports for the season are still forecast at a billion bushels, 200 million more than last year.

March 1 Plans Usually Close To Final Production

Under normal conditions, farmers' actual plantings of corn do not vary much from their reported intentions on March 1. But unusual weather or prices, a grain program change as planting time approaches, or reactions to the intentions report itself can cause farmers to change their acreage plans.

Final 1972 plantings were down 2% from reported intentions. The major factor was that USDA added another option to its 1972 feed grain program in late March to reduce feed grain acreage but encourage soybean acreage. Two years ago, actual acreage was 4% more than March 1 plans. This was primarily due to excellent weather for early spring planting and high corn prices at seeding time. In most earlier years, final plantings were within 1% of prospective seedings. This year, final acreage likely will turn out significantly larger than indicated on March 1 because of the recent change in the program.

1972 Corn Crop On the West Side

The 1972 corn crop was wet, in contrast to the very dry 1971 crop. The harvest season was abnormally long because of prolonged wet, cold snowy weather in the middle portion of the Nation. In addition to harvest delays until well into February, fuel shortages hampered drying operations. With the adoption of field shelling by combine harvesters, farmers are now much more dependent on artificial drying of their grain.

The combination of excessive moisture and drying problems has lowered the quality of the 1972 corn crop. Lower quality means lower feeding value. The total digestible nutrients (TDN) in corn generally decline 2-3% with every drop in grade. This is a factor contributing to the high feeding rate estimated for 1972/73.

Prices To Weaken

After reaching their highest level in about 20 years, market prices of corn over the past 3 months have been fairly stable. Since early December, daily cash prices of No. 2 Yellow at Chicago ranged mostly between $1.50 and $1.60 per bushel. Prices in early April were running about $1.60 a bushel, 37¢ over last year's low level. Although prices may ease

Table 2.--Feed Grains: Supplies and distribution, United States, average 1965-69, annual 1969-73

Marketing Year 1/	Supply				Distribution				
					Domestic use				
	Carry-over	Produc-tion	Imports 2/	Total	Feed 3/	Food industry and seed	Total do-mestic	Exports 2/	Total use
	Million bushels								
	CORN								
Av. 1965-69	1,020	4,454	1	5,475	3,515	377	3,892	591	4,483
1969	1,118	4,687	1	5,806	3,795	394	4,189	612	4,801
1970	1,005	4,152	4	5,161	3,581	396	3,977	517	4,494
1971	667	5,641	1	6,309	3,980	407	4,387	796	5,183
1972 4/	1,126	5,553	1	6,680	4,310	415	4,805	1,000	5,805
1973 4/	875	5/5,772	1	6,648					
	GRAIN SORGHUM								
Av. 1965-69	355	721	---	1,076	591	12	603	182	785
1969	287	730	---	1,017	638	9	647	126	773
1970	244	684	---	928	685	9	694	144	838
1971	90	876	---	966	692	9	701	123	824
1972 4/	142	822	---	964	754	10	764	145	909
1973 4/	55	5/831	---	886					
	OATS								
Av. 1965-69	304	889	3	1,196	728	103	831	16	847
1969	379	966	2	1,347	734	109	843	5	848
1970	499	917	2	1,418	782	102	884	18	902
1971	516	881	4	1,401	737	99	836	24	860
1972 4/	541	695	2	1,238	760	98	858	10	868
1973 4/	370	5/835	2	1,207					
	BARLEY								
Av. 1965-69	133	402	9	544	218	130	348	37	385
1969	201	427	13	641	247	141	388	17	405
1970	236	416	9	661	288	140	428	78	506
1971	155	464	15	634	264	144	408	51	459
1972 4/	175	423	10	608	280	148	428	50	478
1973 4/	130	5/458	10	598					
	TOTAL FEED GRAINS								
	Million Tons								
Av. 1965-69	46.6	168.8	.3	215.7	131.8	15.7	147.5	22.8	170.3
1969	50.2	177.4	.4	228.0	141.8	16.4	158.2	21.2	179.4
1970	48.6	160.1	.4	209.1	138.9	16.3	155.2	20.7	175.9
1971	33.2	207.7	.5	241.4	149.0	16.7	165.7	27.3	193.0
1972 4/	48.4	199.8	.3	248.5	163.1	17.0	180.1	33.4	213.5
1973 4/	35.0	5/209.2	.3	244.5					

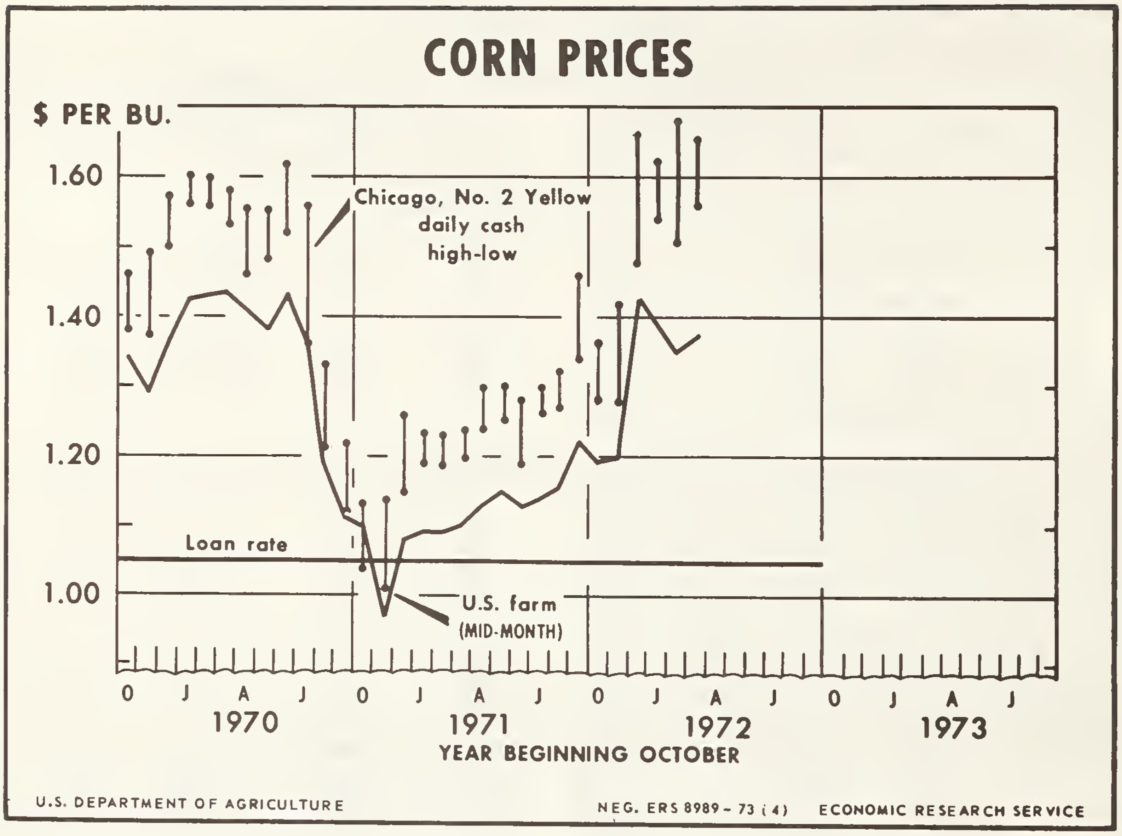
1/ October-September for corn and grain sorghum; July-June for oats and barley.

2/ Includes grain equivalent of products.

3/ Residual; includes small quantities for other uses and waste.

4/ Supply preliminary, 1972 supply based on final 1972 crop estimate for corn and sorghum carried in March 15 prospective plantings report; utilization based on March 1973 indications.

5/ Production based on March 1 prospective plantings and normal growing conditions. The change in the Feed Grain Program on March 26 will likely result in significantly more acreage than indicated on March 1.



downward a bit over the next few weeks, as more corn moves out of loan and CCC inventories, they will likely stay considerably higher than the $1.24-$1.30 range during April-May 1972. The exceptionally strong foreign demand plus heavy domestic disappearance will prevent any sharp price drop during the next few weeks. Exports for the 1972/73 marketing season are still projected at a billion bushels, some 200 million more than a year earlier.

Corn prices

Month	Farm mid-month		Chicago No. 2 Yellow daily cash			
	1971/72	1972/73	1971/72		1972/73	
	Dollars per bushel					
			Low	High	Low	High
Oct.	1.00	1.19	1.04	1.13	1.28	1.36
Nov.	.97	1.20	**1.01**	1.14	1.27	1.42
Dec.	1.08	1.42	1.15	1.26	1.48	1.66
Jan.	1.09	1.39	1.19	1.23	1.54	1.62
Feb.	1.09	1.35	1.19	1.23	1.51	1.68
Mar.	1.10	1.37	1.20	1.24	1.56	1.65
Apr.	1.13		1.24	1.30	[1] 1.60	[1] 1.64
May	1.15		1.25	1.30		
June	1.13		1.19	1.28		
July	1.14		1.26	1.30		
Aug.	1.15		1.27	1.32		
Sept.	1.22		1.34	**1.46**		

[1] Thru April 6.

Figures in bold type denote annual lows and highs.

Corn prices in the Eastern Corn Belt have been high in relation to those of the Western Corn Belt. Usually, the Chicago market runs about 4-5¢ a bushel above Omaha. So far this season, the difference has been running around 7 or 8¢ a bushel.

The U.S. average farm price, after jumping from $1.20 a bushel in November to $1.42 in mid-December, dropped 5¢ to $1.37 in mid-March. The mid-December and mid-March Chicago corn price, at $1.59 and $1.58 per bushel respectively, were virtually unchanged. However, Omaha corn eased from $1.55 in mid-December to $1.50 in mid-March. Thus, changes in the U.S. farm price presently are paralleling the Omaha market more closely than Chicago.

Exports Up Sharply

The principal factor behind prices this season is the strong export demand for U.S. grains. Exports of corn have averaged a high 21 million bushels per week since October. Movement over the next few weeks likely will continue at a strong pace. Corn shipments to the USSR are expected to total 200 million bushels during July 1972-June 1973. Through February, shipments to the USSR totaled 79 million bushels, leaving about 121 million to be moved during March-

June. With the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, shipments should be larger over the next few months.

Corn exports, cumulative

Period	1971/72	1972/73
	Million bushels	*Million bushels*
October	26	80
November	94	172
December	160	257
January	224	360
February	283	453
March	333	[1] 542
April	395	
May	459	
June	525	
July	589	
August	687	
September*	796	[2] 1000

[1] March based on inspections for export. [2] Forecast April 1973.

*Season total.

Feed grain supplies in Australia and South Africa are off because of dry weather. However, Argentina's prospective harvest prospects—although delayed by rain—are excellent, pointing to increased competition for U.S. corn later this spring and summer.

Argentine corn supply and use

Item	Marketing year beginning April			
	1970	1971[1]	1972[1]	1973[2]
	Million bushels	*Million bushels*	*Million bushels*	*Million bushels*
Carryover[3]	1	1	5	1
Production	368	391	231	378
Supply	369	392	236	379
Domestic use	153	134	156	
Exports	215	253	79	
Total use	368	387	235	

[1] Preliminary. [2] Based on March 1973 indications. [3] Unofficial estimates.

South African corn supply and use

Item	Marketing year beginning May			
	1970	1971[1]	1972[1]	1973[2]
	Million bushels	*Million bushels*	*Million bushels*	*Million bushels*
Carryover[3]	44	30	63	86
Production	243	338	379	197
Supply	[4] 290	[4] 369	442	283
Domestic use	209	209	210	
Exports	51	97	146	
Total use	260	306	356	

[1] Preliminary. [2] Based on March 1973 indications. [3] Unofficial estimates. [4] Includes imports.

Volume Under Reseal Declining

All corn loans will not be extended beyond maturity dates this spring and summer. Farmers have started to redeem their loans to take advantage of high market prices. The volume of 1969, 1970, and 1971 reseal corn dropped 37 million bushels during January and February. March 1 reseal loans totaled 456 million bushels, and 1972 loans outstanding totaled 360 million bushels. With current market prices above the redemption costs, most of the loans should move into the market if transportation is available. And with CCC actively selling its inventories, relatively little corn should be in government ownership this October 1. Thus, large "free" supplies will be readily available to the market this summer and could affect market prices.

White Corn Intentions Up Sharply

On March 1, farmers in 10 leading states intended to plant 554,000 acres of white corn, 17% above last year but about half as much as in 1971. Assuming yields of 83 bushels per harvested acre (the same as last year) and about 93% of the planted area harvested, production would approximate 42 million bushels, or about fifth above 1972 (table 3).

White corn prices this season are running well above the low levels in 1971/72. No. 2 white at Kansas City during March averaged $2.13 a bushel, 88¢ above 1971/72 and a little below 2 years ago when the crop was shortened by the blight. White corn is used primarily in food products, and in most years little is fed to livestock.

GRAIN SORGHUM

6% More Acreage Planned

Sorghum growers on March 1 planned to seed about 19 million acres in 1973, 6% more than in 1972 but less than expected by most observers. Even after changes in wheat and feed grain programs designed to increase acreage, March 1 prospective plantings showed producers planned even less acreage than on January 1.

With a normal growing season, the intended sorghum acreage would have produced a crop of around 830 million bushels, or near the 1972 level. Domestic use and exports in 1972/73 are forecast at around 900 million bushels, which would reduce the carryover this October 1 to less than 75 million bushels. With strong demand again in prospect for 1973/74, sorghum could be in the tightest supply situation of any feed grain.

However, the feed grain program change on March 26 will release more land for sorghum. Therefore, actual plantings may increase significantly from the March 1 indications.

Sorghum planted acreage

State	1972	1973 Prospective plantings Jan. 1	1973 Prospective plantings Mar. 1	1973 Mar. 1 as % of 1972
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	%
Texas	6,800	8,500	7,500	110
Kans.	4,400	4,300	4,750	108
Nebr.	1,997	1,937	1,950	98
Okla.	1,100	1,200	1,250	114
Colo.	560	532	494	88
S. Dak.	432	389	375	87
Calif.	271	276	312	115
N. Mex.	366	370	395	108
Mo.	430	475	475	110
Ariz.	153	165	155	101
Other States	946	979	912	96
Total U.S.	17,455	19,123	18,568	106

As sorghum supplies increased in the late 1950's and early 1960's so did cattle feeding in the Southwest. However, in recent years sorghum supplies have stabilized at around a billion bushels per year, while cattle feeding has continued to expand. In the face of a continued growing demand from cattle feeders in the Southwest, other grains (wheat, corn, and barley) may be accounting for a large share of the grain ration.

Exports, which have also played a big role in the sorghum story, have waned in recent years. For example, they dropped from 266 million bushels or 40% of the crop in 1965/66 to 123 million or 14% of production in 1971/72. Exports this season are forecast at near 150 million bushels, 18% of the 1972 output. The drop in exports probably reflects reduced availability, since domestic consumption is trending upward. In addition, sorghum prices have been higher relative to corn in recent years, reflecting a shift from a feed surplus to a feed deficit in the area where most sorghum is grown.

Grain sorghum exports, cumulative

Period	1971/72	1972/73
	Million bushels	*Million bushels*
October	1	16
November	4	30
December	19	47
January	33	64
February	42	86
March	49	[1]104
April	56	
May	65	
June	76	
July	91	
August	107	
September*	123	[2]145

[1] March based on inspections for exports. [2] Forecast April 1973.

*Season total.

Kansas City Prices Decline

After rising from a seasonal low of $2.12 a cwt. last October to $3.14 in late January, Kansas City milo eased to around $2.80 in early April. Prices at Ft. Worth were down about 25¢ a cwt. from late January. The average farm price for mid-March of $2.60 per cwt., also was down some 12¢ since January. Nevertheless, prices are still well above the low levels of a year ago.

Milo prices

Month	Farm, mid-month 1971/72	Farm, mid-month 1972/73	Kansas City, No. 2 Yellow, daily cash 1971/72 Low	1971/72 High	1972/73 Low	1972/73 High
	Dollars per cwt.					
Oct.	1.76	2.09	**1.74**	1.88	2.12	2.26
Nov.	1.78	2.19	1.82	1.94	2.26	2.60
Dec.	1.86	2.72	1.94	2.11	2.60	3.08
Jan.	1.89	2.72	2.03	2.09	2.98	3.14
Feb.	1.86	2.60	2.05	2.10	2.60	3.14
Mar.	1.87	2.60	2.04	2.10	2.74	2.98
Apr.	1.87		2.08	2.11	[1]2.81	[1]2.86
May	1.88		2.06	2.10		
June	1.90		2.06	2.11		
July	1.98		2.05	2.19		
Aug.	2.05		2.04	2.12		
Sept.	2.11		2.11	**2.36**		

[1] Through April 6.

Figures in bold type denote annual lows and highs.

Prices may continue to ease a bit over the next few weeks. Freeing of loan grain for the market plus prospects for a big 1973 wheat crop will tend to weaken milo prices.

The bulk of sorghum is in private ownership. Reseal loans on March 1 totaled 29 million bushels, down 7 million from January 1. Of the 29 million bushels of the 1972 crop entered under loan through February, only 16 million bushels remain outstanding.

Prices during the summer will be extremely sensitive to crop developments. A crop of somewhere near that indicated on March 1 could strengthen prices again for milo during the latter part of the present season and into the 1973/74 season.

OATS

Prospective Acreage Unchanged

Producers are planning little change in their oat acreage this year from last year's plantings of 20.3 million acres. This acreage would produce around 835 million bushels, about a fifth above last year's small crop which resulted from a smaller proportion harvested for grain and lower yields. Production at this level plus an estimated carryover this summer of

370 million bushels gives a total supply for 1973/74 of around 1.2 billion bushels, about the same as in 1972/73 and ample for projected requirements.

Oat planted acreage

State	1972	1973		
		Prospective planting		Mar. 1 as % of 1972
		Jan. 1	Mar. 1	
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	%
Minn.	2,590	2,600	2,770	107
S. Dak.	2,280	2,348	2,450	107
Iowa	2,350	2,350	2,350	100
N. Dak.	2,297	2,366	2,297	100
Wis.	1,570	1,554	1,554	99
Ill.	1,250	1,150	900	72
Other N. Cent.	2,108	2,342	2,446	116
N. Cent.	14,445	14,710	14,767	102
Other States	5,851	[1] 6,890	5,707	98
Total U.S.	20,296	[1] 21,600	20,474	101

[1] Adjusted upward for states not included in survey.

Weaker Tone In Prices

After reaching 97¢ a bushel at Minneapolis in mid-December, oat prices dropped to a stable 84¢ during March, 17 to 19¢ above a year earlier. The strong oat market is largely due to the general strength of the grain market. Prices are likely to decline seasonally as harvests of grain crops begin this summer and loans are allowed to expire.

Oat prices

Month	Farm mid-month		Minneapolis No. 2 White extra heavy daily cash			
	1971/72	1972/73	1971/72		1972/73	
	Cents per bushel					
			Low	High	Low	High
July	63	66	60	66	68	70
Aug.	56	62	**59**	64	68	71
Sept.	57	64	63	66	71	72
Oct.	58	67	63	65	71	80
Nov.	60	70	65	68	80	87
Dec.	62	81	66	69	88	97
Jan.	64	81	68	69	85	92
Feb.	64	78	68	69	84	85
Mar.	64	77	65	67	83	84
Apr.	64		66	69	[1] 84	[1] 84
May	64		68	**71**		
June	67		69	**71**		

[1] Through April 6.

Figures in bold type denote annual lows and highs.

With market prices well above loan, producers have put only about 31 million bushels of 1972 oats in the loan program, well below last year's 82 million bushels. Producers are now redeeming their reseal loans; during January and February approximately 20 million bushels of 173 million bushels of 1968-71 crop reseal were redeemed. The Commodity Credit Corporation also has sold about 34 million bushels of its inventory since July 1972 but still owns 153 million bushels.

BARLEY

4% Increase In Acreage

Barley growers will seed 11 million acres to barley if they carry out their March 1 plans, 4% more than in 1972. With a normal growing year, this would produce around 458 million bushels of barley, 8% more than in 1972 and close to the 1971 outturn. With the July 1 carryover forecast at 130 million bushels, the prospective 1973/74 supply would total in the area of 600 million bushels, or near the volume at the start of 1972/73.

Barley planted acreage

State	1972	1973		
		Prospective plantings		Mar. 1 as % of 1972
		Jan. 1	Mar. 1	
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	%
N. Dak.	2,695	2,695	2,803	104
Mont.	1,820	1,820	1,950	107
Calif.	1,116	1,116	1,050	94
Minn.	806	870	903	112
Idaho	745	760	835	112
S. Dak.	610	537	671	110
Wash.-Oreg.	553	557	620	112
Other States	2,294	[1] 2,445	2,209	96
Total U.S.	10,639	[1] 10,800	11,041	104

[1] Adjusted upward for States not included in survey.

Price Weakened, But Still Strong

After reaching $1.36 a bushel in mid-January, the highest since the 1953/54 season, prices of No. 3 (or better) barley at Minneapolis dropped sharply to $1.20 in March, or 16¢ more than a year ago. With barley prices high relative to corn most of the year, the recent drop results in a more normal barley/corn relationship. Prices likely will continue to drop into the summer. Loans, totaling almost 100 million bushels, are not being extended beyond their maturity dates.

Market prices for most of the barley under loan are above redemption costs, so producers have the incentive to redeem and market their barley. However, barley producers have been rather slow about redeeming their loans, possibly because of some jams in the transportation system. On

Barley prices

Month	Farm mid-month		Minneapolis, No. 3 or better daily cash			
	1971/72	1972/73	1971/72		1972/73	
	Dollars per bushel					
			Low	High	Low	High
July	1.07	1.04	.95	1.03	.92	.99
Aug.	.87	.96	**.87**	.99	.92	1.07
Sept.	.92	1.06	.95	1.01	1.07	1.15
Oct.	.96	1.14	1.01	1.05	1.14	1.17
Nov.	1.02	1.19	.99	1.05	1.14	1.16
Dec.	1.04	1.32	1.01	1.07	1.21	1.30
Jan.	1.04	1.42	1.07	1.08	1.30	1.36
Feb.	1.01	1.34	1.06	1.08	1.15	1.33
Mar.	.98	1.31	1.04	1.06	1.18	1.21
Apr.	.99		1.04	1.08	[1] 1.20	[1] 1.20
May	1.04		1.08	1.09		
June	1.09		.97	**1.13**		

[1] Through April 6.

Figures in bold type denotes annual lows and highs.

January 1, some 62 million bushels of 1968-71 crop were under reseal loan, and on March 1 operating reports showed 55 million still under loan. But out of the 42 million bushels of 1972-crop barley placed under loan through February, 12 million had been redeemed, leaving about 30 million outstanding. Thus, about 85 million bushels will still be available to the market by this summer.

The average price earned by producers for their 1972 crop is estimated at $1.11 per bushel. Adding the 24¢ average price support payment per bushel on all barley produced boosts the farmer's return to $1.35 a bushel, the highest since 1952.

OTHER FEEDS

High-Protein Feeding up 3%

The 1972/73 high-protein supply remains extremely tight. Protein feeding in October-February, totaled 8.5 million tons, 3% more than a year earlier. However, this rate of increase likely will not be maintained during the remainder of the season, as tight supplies and high prices have shifted proteins out of rations. Domestic consumption of protein feed (44% soybean meal basis) for the whole year is estimated at 20.3 million tons, little different from the amount fed in 1971/72 With high-protein animal units for 1972/73 estimated at 143½ million, 2% above last year, feeding rates will be down. This implies that normal protein levels of livestock rations may be down, or in the case of rations for ruminant animals, more protein may be coming from nitrogen sources such as urea.

Protein feed prices in March 1972 reached a then record high of 116% of the 1967 average. They since have risen consistently, soaring to 270% of the base in February 1973. Oilseed meal in February was 271% of the 1967 average, animal proteins were 313%, and grain proteins were 177% of the 1967 base. The high prices of protein feed are the result of an unusual set of circumstances which shortened the world supply of protein feed in the face of both strong domestic use and demand: The delayed soybean harvest in the United States, the reduced 1972 feed crops in the Soviet Union, India's smaller peanut crop and export availabilities; shortages of fish meal in Peru and currency realignments. Peruvian fishmeal at Hamburg in late March was being quoted at $352 per metric ton, down sharply from the February average of $449, but still substantially above the $160 average for March 1972.

Soybean meal prices (44% protein) shot to a record $235 per ton on March 7. Since then, prices have fallen some, but they are still much higher than the $91 level of a year earlier. Even though prices may ease downward later they will continue at a high level the remainder of this season. Peru resumed fishing for anchovy on March 5, but reports of the catch are inconclusive. However, fish meal exports by Peru may help reduce the pressure on meal prices. Prices over the next few months will be unusually sensitive to factors affecting the new crop and world demand.

Domestic use of soybean meal in 1972/73 likely will total 13.3 million tons, virtually the same as last year's 13.2 million. Usage in October-February amounted to 5.7 million tons, 4% above a year earlier. However, this high rate of usage will not hold, as tight bean supplies and high prices will restrain usage the remainder of the season.

Fish meal supplies (domestic production plus imports) in October-February totaled 131,000 tons, down a third from a year ago. Although domestic production could increase a bit this summer, imports for the rest of the season will fall well below the 273,000 tons imported in March-September 1972. World supplies of fish meal are short and the outlook for Peruvian fish meal remains uncertain. Prices leaped to $432 a ton in (mid-March), some $268 more than a year ago surpassing the previous high of $214 in April 1949. But, by late March, prices had dropped to $395 per ton. Prices probably have about peaked; although continuing high they could ease a bit during the remainder of the season. U.S. fishing starts in May and will help alleviate some of the tightness in supplies.

Tankage and meat meal supplies are also lagging this year. During October-February, production of these animal proteins totaled 762,000 tons, 5% below a year earlier. Production of distillers' and brewers' dried grains also is running below last year. In October-February, output of distiller's dried grains at 171,000 tons was off 4% and brewers' dried grains at 128,000 tons was 6% less.

Molasses Supplies Smaller; Prices High

U.S. molasses supplies (production and imports) for 1972/73 (year beginning October) are projected at 790 million gallons, around 20 million or 3% less than in 1971/72 (table 4). Domestic production of molasses is estimated at a record 226 million gallons, 16% above a year earlier. But reduced imports are expected to more than offset this gain. Trade sources report supplies of molasses are tight in many areas.

The larger U.S. molasses output is the result of much larger sugarcane crops in Florida and Louisiana and a 5% larger sugarbeet crop. Hawaiian cane molasses is forecast at 53 million gallons, slightly below 1971's output. These estimates are based on "average" molasses extraction rates per ton of cane or sugarbeets produced, allowing for seed needs.

In recent years the bulk of Hawaii's molasses output has been shipped to the U.S. mainland. This year trade reports indicated that some Hawaiian molasses was being exported, but according to official reports, no molasses was exported from Hawaii during October-February. The bulk of the 1.3 million gallons of U.S. molasses exported during October-February moved from New York, Michigan, and Miami Customs districts.

Imports of molasses, which normally account for one-half of the U.S. supply, are running well below those of last year. Imports during October-February totaled 128 million gallons, a fifth less than a year earlier. It is largely on this basis that 1972/73 imports are projected at 375 million, down from the record 432 million gallons imported in 1971/72.

World molasses production for 1972/73 is estimated at 23.7 million metric tons, 3% more than a year earlier. Increases are evidenced in all world areas except in Europe where prospects are down about 6%.

Like all other feed ingredients, feed molasses prices are exceptionally high. This year at Chicago, for example, the price of blackstrap in March averaged 41¢ per gallon, about double the 21¢ level during the previous 3 years. As supplies (from both domestic and world sources) are relatively large, the high prices apparently are due to an aggressive world demand for feed ingredients. Molasses prices likely will continue strong, although they could ease a bit as cattle are moved to pastures.

Domestic demand for molasses (which can be used with urea in liquid protein supplements) is unusually strong this year. Cattle feeders are shifting to cheaper priced urea as a protein source, and to molasses a carbohydrate source needed by the animal's ruminant system to convert urea to protein. Also, more molasses may be required to improve the palatability of poor quality roughages—especially in the Northeast.

HAY

More Acreage Planned

Farmers plan to harvest hay in 1973 from 2% more area if they carry through with their late winter plans. Acreage planned in the North Atlantic States would increase about 1% from last year. A 4% increase in Pennsylvania more than offsets declines in New York, New Jersey and most of the New England States. In the North Central States, which account for over half of the Nation's acreage, producers' goals add up to a 1% increase in acreage. The largest increase of 6% is planned by farmers in the South Central Region, where cattle herds are expanding rapidly, while a 1% increase is in prospect for the Western States, with Colorado and New Mexico leading the way.

If producers achieve their acreage goals, a normal growing season would produce a crop of 134 million tons, about 5½ million above last year's. Coupling this crop to an estimated May 1 carryover of 21 million tons would give a 1973/74 hay supply of 155 million tons, little above the 1972/73 supply. With roughage consuming animal units projected to increase about 3% to 103½ million, the supply of hay per unit would figure out to about 1.50 tons, a little under the 1.54-1.59 levels of recent years.

However, a new dimension in the roughage-feed outlook is that grazing and haying of grain program set-aside land under the wheat and feed grain programs will be permitted for the first time.[1] This could help ease the tight forage situation as well as encourage herd expansion. Observers indicate considerable interest in this option.

Prices of all hay received by U.S. farmers since the season began in May 1972 averaged $32 a ton, $6 above a year earlier. The mid-March price averaged $35 per ton, also $6 more than a year ago and $9 more than the 1967-71 average for that month. Smaller supplies and a strong demand from the Nation's sharply expanding beef herd will continue to support prices at high levels. But a relatively mild spring has permitted some early grazing, taking some pressure off the supply.

Farmers in the Northeastern States have been especially hard hit by shortages of feed ingredients. It all started in June 1972 when Tropical Storm Agnes caused extensive damage to feed crops. This area chiefly relies on its local production of roughage feed and shipped-in concentrate feeds. With its own production of feed crops reduced by adverse weather and with jams in the national distribution system, already loaded to capacity by exceptionally strong export and domestic demand, feed supplies in this area became hard to get and high-priced. As a result,

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[1] Set-aside payments will be reduced for program participants electing this option.

USDA, under the Emergency Livestock Feed Program, shipped some 20 million bushels of corn and oats in the North east during July 1972-February 1973. This grain was made available at relatively low prices to eligible farmers threatened with loss of their foundation stock.

Table 3.—White corn, acreage, yield and production

State	1971				1972				1973
	Acreage		Yield	Production	Acreage		Yield	Production	Mar. 1 prosp. acres
	Planted	Harvested			Planted	Harvested			
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*Bu.*	*1,000 bu.*	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Bu.*	*1,000 bu.*	*1,000 acres*
Ohio	18	17	720	1,224	10	9	65.0	585	6
Ind.	80	79	98.0	7,742	40	39	88.0	3,432	48
Ill.	145	140	83.0	11,620	40	39	95.0	3,705	55
Iowa	44	43	90.0	3,870	26	25	100.0	2,500	35
Mo.	117	113	87.0	9,831	45	44	91.0	4,004	65
Nebr.	41	37	80.0	2,960	16	14	95.0	1,330	19
Kans.	102	99	85.0	8,415	50	43	85.0	3,655	55
Ky.	289	272	73.0	19,856	109	105	81.0	8,505	125
Tenn.	200	187	57.0	10,659	92	80	66.0	5,280	101
Texas	95	80	72.0	5,760	45	38	82.0	3,116	45
10 States	1,131	1,067	76.8	81,937	473	436	82.8	36,112	554

Table 4.--Feed and Industrial Molasses: Estimated supply and distribution, 1962-72

Year beginning October	PRODUCTION									Inshipments Puerto Rico	Imports	Total U.S. Supply
	Cane					Beet	Citrus	Corn, hydrol	Total production			
	Florida	Louisiana	Hawaii	Refiners' blackstrap	Total cane							
	Million gallons											
1962	27	39	53	38	157	96	5	26	284	17	290	591
1963	29	61	62	35	187	129	4	31	351	18	255	624
1964	47	56	58	35	196	132	9	27	364	17	264	645
1965	39	47	60	37	183	115	10	24	332	12	304	648
1966	40	43	60	39	182	113	17	20	332	5	351	688
1967	43	55	61	38	197	104	9	19	329	6	358	693
1968	37	51	63	46	197	136	14	21	368	6	347	721
1969	35	40	58	47	180	156	12	21	369	3	378	750
1970	38	46	55	46	185	160	10	22	377	2	402	781
1971 1/	43	43	56	52	194	153	8	22	377	*	432	809
1972 2/	63	60	53	50	226	160	6	23	415	---	375	790

Year beginning October	DISTRIBUTION						
	Livestock feed 3/	Distilled spirits and alcohol	Other 4/	Domestic use 5/	Exports		
					Puerto Rico	Mainland	Total
	Million gallons						
1962	456	5	125	586	20	5	25
1963	480	5	135	620	16	4	20
1964	487	10	145	642	10	3	13
1965	481	15	150	646	17	2	19
1966	511	26	150	687	18	1	19
1967	513	21	150	684	10	9	19
1968	555	6	155	716	6	5	11
1969	577	11	155	743	3	7	10
1970	617	7	155	779	3	2	5
1971 1/	638	6	160	804	1	5	6
1972 2/	621	5	160	786	1	4	5

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Forecast March 1973. 3/ Residual; includes other minor uses and waste. 4/ Allowance for pharmaceutical products, yeast, citric acid, vinegar, pesticides, etc. Also includes small quantities of edible sirups. 5/ Not adjusted for change in stocks for which data are not available. *Less than 500,000 gallons.

Table 5.--Feed grains and hay: Acreage, yield and production
average 1965-69, annual 1968-73 crops

Year	CORN 1/				GRAIN SORGHUM 1/			
	Acreage		Yield per:		Acreage		Yield per	
	Planted	Harvested for grain	harvested acre	Production	Planted	Harvested for grain	harvested acre	Production
	- - Million - -		Bushel	Mil. bu.	- - Million - -		Bushel	Mil. bu.
Average 1965-69	66.4	56.7	78.5	4,453	17.5	13.6	53.0	721
1968	65.1	56.0	79.5	4,450	17.8	13.9	52.6	731
1969	64.3	54.6	85.9	4,687	17.2	13.4	54.3	730
1970	66.8	57.4	72.4	4,152	17.0	13.6	50.4	684
1971	74.1	64.0	88.1	5,641	20.8	16.3	53.7	876
1972 2/	66.8	57.3	96.9	5,553	17.5	13.5	60.7	822
1973 3/	71.6	4/61.4	94.0	5,772	18.6	4/14.6	57.0	831

Year	OATS				BARLEY			
	Acreage		Yield per:		Acreage		Yield per	
	Planted	Harvested	harvested acre	Production	Planted	Harvested	harvested acre	Production
	- - Million - -		Bushel	Mil. bu.	- - Million - -		Bushel	Mil. bu.
Average 1965-69	23.0	17.6	50.5	889	10.4	9.6	41.9	402
1968	23.3	17.7	53.7	951	10.5	9.7	43.8	426
1969	23.6	18.0	53.7	966	10.3	9.6	44.7	427
1970	24.5	18.6	49.2	917	10.5	9.7	42.8	416
1971	22.0	15.8	55.9	881	11.1	10.2	45.7	464
1972 1/	20.3	13.6	51.1	695	10.6	9.7	43.6	423
1973 2/	20.5	4/15.0	55.5	835	11.0	4/10.2	45.0	458

Year	TOTAL 4 FEED GRAINS				HAY		
	Acreage		Yield per:		Acreage	Yield per	
	Planted	Harvested	harvested acre	Production	Harvested	harvested acre	Production
	- - Million - -		Tons	Mil. tons	-- Million --	Tons	Mil. tons
Average 1965-69	117.3	97.6	1.73	168.8	63.2	1.96	124
1968	116.7	97.3	1.75	170.5	60.9	2.04	124
1969	115.3	95.5	1.86	177.4	59.7	2.11	126
1970	118.8	99.3	1.61	160.1	61.5	2.06	127
1971	127.9	106.3	1.95	207.7	61.4	2.10	129
1972 1/	115.1	94.2	2.12	199.8	59.8	2.15	128
1973 2/	121.7	4/101.2	2.07	209.2	60.9	2.20	134

1/ Acreage planted for all purposes; production for grain only.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Indicated 1973 acreage based on March 1 intentions of farmers. Production computed on the basis of the prospective plantings, assuming average yield per acre adjusted for trend. The change in the Feed Grain Program on March 26 will likely result in significantly more acreage than indicated on March 1.

4/ Based on prospective plantings and 1968-72 relationships between acreage planted and harvested.

Table 6.--Feed grains and hay: Prospective plantings as compared with acreages planted, United States, 1964-73

Year	Prospective plantings 1/	Acreage planted		Prospective plantings 1/	Acreage planted		Prospective plantings 1/	Acreage planted	
		Actual 2/	Percent of prospective		Actual 2/	Percent of prospective		Actual 2/	Percent of prospective
	Mil. acres	Mil. acres	Pct.	Mil. acres	Mil. acres	Pct.	Mil. acres	Mil. acres	Pct.
	CORN			SORGHUMS			OATS		
1964	68.9	67.4	98	17.7	16.9	95	27.6	26.6	96
1965	66.9	66.8	100	17.5	17.2	98	25.1	24.9	99
1966	68.4	67.8	99	16.8	16.4	98	24.7	24.4	99
1967	70.6	70.9	100	18.3	19.2	105	21.2	20.6	97
1968	64.9	64.8	100	17.0	17.9	105	21.2	23.0	108
1969	64.4	64.3	100	17.7	17.4	98	23.3	23.6	101
1970	66.7	67.2	101	18.6	17.3	93	24.6	24.5	100
1971	71.5	74.1	104	20.2	21.3	105	23.2	22.0	95
1972	68.5	66.8	98	18.4	17.5	95	21.0	20.3	97
1973	71.6			18.6			20.5		
	BARLEY			TOTAL 4 FEED GRAINS			HAY 3/		
1964	12.9	12.2	95	127.1	123.1	97	67.1	67.9	101
1965	10.8	10.5	97	120.3	119.4	99	68.4	68.1	100
1966	11.6	11.7	101	121.4	120.3	99	67.2	66.8	99
1967	10.2	10.0	98	120.3	120.7	100	63.9	64.7	101
1968	10.3	10.3	100	113.4	116.0	102	63.0	62.6	99
1969	10.4	10.2	98	115.8	115.5	100	62.7	61.8	99
1970	10.7	10.4	97	120.6	119.4	99	62.1	63.2	102
1971	10.9	11.1	102	125.7	128.5	102	63.5	63.3	100
1972	10.4	10.6	102	118.3	115.2	97	62.8	59.8	95
1973	11.0			121.7			60.9		

1/ Prospective plantings as of March 1. 2/ Acreages reported in the December Annual Summary of Crop Production; (January beginning with 1971 crop) these estimates are comparable with prospective plantings. 3/ Acreage harvested.

Table 7.--Corn: Inspected receipts by grades at principal markets, following harvest of 1969-72 crops 1/

Grade	1969		1970		1971		1972	
	Receipts	% of total	Receipts	% of total	Receipts	% of total	Receipts	% of total
	Mil. bu.		Mil. bu.		Mil. bu.		Mil. bu.	
1	2.7	2	5.3	3	7.3	5	4.0	3
2	30.3	23	61.7	36	52.8	35	39.1	29
3	39.9	30	47.0	28	51.1	33	39.1	29
4	31.2	24	31.1	18	24.4	16	22.9	17
5	16.6	13	16.3	10	9.6	6	20.3	15
Sample	11.1	8	9.2	5	7.3	5	9.4	7
Total	131.8	100	170.6	100	152.5	100	134.8	100

1/ Two months during and following harvest; samples taken from all major producing areas of the country, 1972 crop covered inspections to mid-December and as of December 3, 25% of crop was still in the field so quality listed above would not include any of this corn.

Source: Grain Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

Table 8.--Livestock, poultry and milk-feed price ratios, 1967-71 average, by months, 1967-73

Year beginning October	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Average
	HOG/CORN, U.S. Basis 1/												
Average 2/: 1967-71	18.2	17.8	17.2	16.7	17.7	16.9	16.1	16.9	17.3	18.4	18.5	17.5	17.5
1967	17.3	17.6	16.2	16.9	17.8	17.5	17.5	16.8	18.1	20.0	19.5	19.3	17.9
1968	18.6	16.8	17.0	17.3	18.0	18.3	17.6	18.7	20.3	21.1	21.9	21.7	18.9
1969	22.1	23.4	23.7	23.6	24.1	22.7	20.7	19.5	19.2	19.2	17.0	14.3	20.8
1970	13.4	11.9	11.1	10.8	13.4	11.8	11.3	12.3	12.2	14.0	15.5	16.1	12.8
1971	19.5	19.3	18.2	20.8	23.6	21.2	19.9	21.7	22.5	24.1	24.3	23.0	21.5
1972 3/	23.1	22.3	20.8	22.3	25.3	28.0							
	BEEF-STEER/CORN, Omaha 4/												
Average 2/: 1967-71	23.6	23.6	23.1	21.1	21.9	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.6	23.1	24.0	23.8	22.8
1967	22.5	22.7	22.0	21.8	22.4	22.4	21.8	21.3	21.9	23.4	24.8	23.2	22.7
1968	22.6	22.9	23.5	22.8	22.8	23.5	24.0	25.4	26.6	25.2	24.6	24.3	24.0
1969	23.5	23.4	23.9	23.3	24.2	25.8	24.9	23.6	23.8	23.9	21.9	20.7	23.6
1970	21.2	20.1	18.5	19.7	21.8	21.8	22.3	22.3	21.6	22.6	26.4	28.0	22.2
1971	28.2	29.0	27.4	28.3	29.1	28.2	27.4	27.8	30.5	30.4	29.1	27.1	28.5
1972 3/	27.1	24.9	24.6	26.8	27.6	30.2							
	MILK/FEED, U.S. Basis 5/												
Average 2/: 1967-71	1.80	1.83	1.80	1.72	1.68	1.65	1.62	1.60	1.57	1.61	1.66	1.75	1.69
1967	1.68	1.72	1.69	1.68	1.65	1.62	1.60	1.60	1.58	1.64	1.72	1.79	1.66
1968	1.85	1.86	1.83	1.80	1.76	1.73	1.69	1.65	1.61	1.65	1.70	1.80	1.74
1969	1.85	1.87	1.85	1.82	1.78	1.74	1.73	1.68	1.66	1.68	1.69	1.75	1.76
1970	1.79	1.81	1.78	1.72	1.69	1.67	1.63	1.60	1.57	1.61	1.66	1.76	1.69
1971	1.84	1.88	1.85	1.85	1.84	1.80	1.74	1.70	1.68	1.71	1.76	1.78	1.79
1972 3/	1.83	1.80	1.62	1.55	1.54	1.51							
	EGG/FEED, U.S. Basis 6/												
Average 2/: 1967-71	8.2	9.0	9.8	9.7	8.7	8.6	7.8	7.0	7.1	7.9	7.9	8.9	8.4
1967	6.8	7.2	7.8	7.9	7.5	7.6	7.2	6.8	7.6	8.2	8.7	10.9	7.8
1968	9.6	9.9	10.7	10.9	9.9	10.1	9.3	7.6	7.8	9.4	8.9	10.0	9.5
1969	10.1	12.3	13.5	13.0	11.4	10.2	8.4	7.3	7.4	8.6	7.9	9.0	9.9
1970	7.4	8.3	8.8	8.0	7.4	7.3	7.3	6.7	6.4	6.4	7.1	7.1	7.4
1971	6.9	7.2	8.2	7.1	6.9	7.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	7.0	6.9	7.7	7.1
1972 3/	6.9	8.0	8.5	8.9	7.3	7.7							
	BROILER/FEED, U.S. Basis 7/												
Average 2/: 1967-71	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.0
1967	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.1
1968	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.3
1969	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.0
1970	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.8
1971	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.2	2.9
1972 3/	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.9	3.0	3.5							

1/ Number bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog liveweight. 2/ Calendar year averages. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Based on price of beef-steers all grades sold out of first hands for slaughter and No. 2 Yellow corn. 5/ Pounds concentrate ration equal in value to one lb. whole milk. 6/ Number of lbs. of laying feed equal in value to one dozen eggs. 7/ Number of lbs. of broiler grower feed equal in value to one lb. broiler liveweight.

Table 9.--Production, stocks, and foreign trade in processed feeds, foreign trade in feed grains, and corn and barley processing, specified months 1/

Commodity	Production					Stocks 2/				
	1972	1972/73				1972	1972/73			
	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. 1	Dec. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1
	1,000 tons					1,000 tons				
Processed feeds										
Soybean meal	1,430.8	1,660.7	1,617.5	1,656.0	1,522.6	135.5	170.7	217.9	193.3	212.4
Cottonseed meal	191.1	242.4	228.4	238.7	217.0	107.7	44.5	50.0	48.7	51.8
Linseed meal	33.5	33.0	27.0	30.7	24.8	8.9	4.0	2.3	4.6	5.4
Peanut meal	16.7	16.8	18.2	16.2	15.4	2.4	2.1	2.1	3.2	3.7
Meat meal and tankage	149.7	160.3	148.6	158.4	132.0	---	---	---	---	---
Fish meal and solubles	6.6	18.2	8.0	4.3	5.4	---	---	---	---	---
Brewers' dried grains	28.2	24.2	23.0	26.3	26.0	3.6	3.0	3.1	2.4	2.6
Distillers' dried grains	36.4	33.2	33.5	35.9	36.9	2.5	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9
Wheat millfeeds	341.8	361.1	358.4	375.1	342.3	---	---	---	---	---
Rice millfeeds	34.6	45.0	42.0	48.8	43.2	---	---	---	---	---
Alfalfa meal, dehydrated	8.4	16.2	5.2	4.6	6.3	289.4	571.5	416.7	271.8	183.5
sun-cured	30.1	40.6	34.1	42.4	38.6	17.0	15.0	12.1	11.5	13.1
Total	38.5	56.8	39.3	47.0	44.9	306.4	586.5	428.8	283.3	199.6
Inedible tallow	44.0	44.4	41.0	46.7	39.0	---	---	---	---	---

Commodity	Foreign trade									
	Exports					Imports				
	1972	1972/73				1972	1972/73			
	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	1,000 tons					1,000 tons				
Soybean meal	379.5	474.9	437.3	580.1	496.0	---	---	---	---	---
Cottonseed meal	.3	.3	1.5	.1	3/	0	0	3/	0	.2
Linseed meal	1.7	8.4	21.4	1.3	7.5	.2	.3	.2	.3	.3
Other oilseed meals	3.4	6.2	6.3	2.7	6.7	.8	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.4
Fish meal	---	---	---	---	---	48.1	2.3	4.5	7.3	1.6
Molasses	22.3	.1	2.2	.3	.5	216.1	186.8	143.6	121.3	209.1
Corn gluten feed	49.1	70.9	61.4	35.1	66.8	---	---	---	---	---
Other corn byproducts	.9	8.0	4.7	6.4	9.6	---	---	---	---	---
Wheat millfeeds	1.2	15.4	12.7	4.7	7.1	10.7	11.6	11.6	12.1	11.5
Alfalfa meal, dehydrated	14.3	16.1	12.5	20.2	2.4	---	---	---	---	---
sun-cured	5.7	11.9	8.0	21.9	2.6	---	---	---	---	---
Total	20.0	28.0	20.5	42.1	5.0	---	---	---	---	---
Mixed poultry feed	12,5	10.1	10.0	9.9	10.0	---	---	---	---	---
Mixed dairy feed	12.7	2.5	1.8	4.3	3.1	---	---	---	---	---
	1,000 bushels					1,000 bushels				
Feed grains (including products)										
Corn	59,147	91,675	85,022	103,076	92,974	170	10	80	143	87
Grain sorghum	8,797	14,799	16,172	17,471	21,501	0	0	0	0	0
Oats	1,699	556	629	385	448	231	232	245	317	268
Barley	282	2,097	7,348	2,709	5,412	218	1,971	2,684	91	92
Total	1,936	3,040	3,020	3,446	3,342	14	51	71	11	9

Commodity	Grain processing or use						
	1972		1972/73				
	January	February	October	November	December	January	February
	1,000 bushels						
Corn							
Distilled spirits & alcohol	2,456	2,376	1,984	2,034	2,050	2,393	*
Grain sorghum							
Distilled spirits & alcohol	396	464	306	299	232	251	*
Barley							
Malt liquors	8,112	8,497	8,995	7,905	7,746	8,978	*
Distilled spirits & alcohol	471	456	355	376	343	469	*

1/ Data compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census; U.S.D.A.'s Agricultural Marketing Service, National Marine Fisheries Service; Department of Commerce. 2/ At processor's plants. 3/ Less than 50 tons. * Not yet available.

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Fds-248 APRIL 1973

INDEX OF TABLES

Acreage, Yield and Production:

	Table	Page
Feed grains: Supply and distribution, 1965-73	2	7
Feed grains and hay: Acreage, yield and production, 1965-73	5	16
Feed grains and hay: Comparison of prospective and actual acreages, 1964-73	6	17
Corn: White, acreage, yield and production, 1971-73	3	14

Supplies, Stocks and Market Receipts:

	Table	Page
Corn: Inspected receipts by grades, 1969-72	7	17
Feed grains and processed feeds: Production, stocks, foreign trade, grain processing, selected months	9	19
Molasses: Supply and distribution, 1962-72	4	15

Prices and Price Ratios:

	Table	Page
Statistical summary: Prices, indexes and price ratios	1	2
Livestock and poultry and milk-feed price ratios, 1967-71 average, by months, 1967-73	8	18